

From: JHCragoe
To: Microsoft ATR
Date: 1/24/02 2:04pm
Subject: Microsoft Settlement

BlankJohn H. Cragoe

6310 N.E. 138th Place

Kirkland, WA 98034-4905

January 23, 2002

Attorney General John Ashcroft

US Department of Justice

950 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW

Washington, DC 20530

Dear Mr. Ashcroft:

Three years of litigation against Microsoft in the antitrust suit was flawed and unjustified. In their most recent financial disclosures, the cost of defense is put at nearly two-thirds of a billion dollars. Resources that could have been used for further technological advances, for additional employment opportunities, for lower final prices to consumers, or for local philanthropic purposes have been wasted.

The original aim was to protect consumer rights, but as the litigation continued it has become very apparent to me and to many other people that this case reflects the intense lobbying efforts on the part of Microsoft competitors and lack of concern for the public best interest on the part of politicians and lawmakers. As a user of computer technology for over twenty years, I have chosen Microsoft products because the combination of features, ease of use, continuous upgrades in capability, and low cost were unmatched by any other provider.

The terms of the settlement are entirely too harsh and unfair. Microsoft should not be forced to give away information about its internal interfaces and protocols. They have worked long and hard to develop these secrets and it should be their right to keep them within their company's walls. It is also unjust to bar Microsoft from entering into any third party agreements for exclusive distribution rights. If this will be implemented, than Pepsi and Coca Cola should not be able to sign agreements of the same kind with McDonalds and Wendy?s.

While I find the settlement ineffective and biased towards giving competition an edge they could never attain the old fashioned way through hard work and innovation, I think it must be implemented. Further lawsuits will only be more detrimental to our economy. Please take a strong stance on this with the nine remaining states that still oppose settlement. Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

JHCragoe

John H Cragoe

jhcragoe@attbi.com
Tel: 425-814-8326
Fax: 425-821-3544